

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-6 are pending for examination.

Abstract of the Disclosure:

In response to Paragraph 2 of the outstanding office action, applicant has revised the abstract adopting many of the suggestions of the examiner. Applicant has also shortened the abstract so that it comes within the 250 word limit.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nishimura (6,381,244) in view of Luciani (6,614,791). Further, claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Luciani and further in view of Yin (2001/0055313).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a device on a network (an edge node switching equipment) and does not require the modification of user's terminal as disclosed in the Nishimura reference.

The Nishimura reference needs a specific ATM cell between a terminal on the user's side and a device on a network. On the other hand, the present invention uses one input line per user and this makes the system simple.

As can be seen from the two points above, the present invention's advantage is that the present invention does not need to alter the user's terminal but a manager of a network only has to replace his/her own device.

Another distinguishing feature of the present invention is that the present invention sets user information on a network device beforehand. The Nishimura reference changes it frequently.

From this point, it can be said that the resource owned by a network manager is efficiently utilized according to disclosed embodiments of the invention. The Nishimura reference allows users to use a system in his/her way. This may overburden and collapse the system.

In the present invention, a second VC or the "plural output VCs" of claim 6, is available at a system failure, and can be set on a network device beforehand. On this embodiment, the switching time is shorter than that of the Nishimura reference.

Further the Nishimura reference searches a switching table after the first ATM cell has arrived and searches again a new switching table if the switching table asked for does not exist. This may not cause trouble when a system is stable (where enough time passes after a switch was turned on and a switching table is completed). However, when a device is to be reset in order to deal with some trouble, a great amount of cells can flow into the device right after the device is started up and the device's learning ability will not be able to catch up. The present invention shortens the period between a reset operation and a stable state.

Conclusions:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7-29-04

By David A. Blumenthal

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5407
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257